

REMARKS

Written Reply to Last Office Action Interview

Pursuant to the telephonic interview of March 10, 2004, with Examiner Cozart and the undersigned attorney, an agreement was reached that the Preliminary Amendment was not timely filed to the postal dates of the Preliminary Amendment and the outstanding Office Action of April 22, 2004. Accordingly, dates corresponding to the Office Action mailed on January 22, 2004 will be followed for the purpose of preparing an appropriate response and written confirmation of the telephonic interview.

Claims 23-31 have been cancelled from the application.

New claims 44-58 including independent claims 44 and 54 have been added to the application.

Claims 23-25 stand objected to due to certain informalities resulting in non-conformance with the United States Patent and Trademark Office Standards.

Claims 26-31 stand objected to under 35 CFR § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim depends from other multiple dependent claims.

Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 23 stands objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 0028019 A1.

Claims 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,868,535 to Ladouceur.

The specification has been amended, as required by the Examiner, and is detailed above in the specification section, wherein replacement paragraphs have been provided. No new content has been added to the application.

An Abstract has been added and is included on a separate sheet with a word range of between 50 and 150 words as required by paragraph 6 of the outstanding Office Action.